

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/757,458

Applicant(s)

UENO, YOSHIO

Examiner

Jason R Bellinger

Art Unit

3617

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the election filed 3 August 2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1,2 and 7-12.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 15 January 2004 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. 10/173,118.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 1/15/04
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

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Election/Restrictions

1. Applicant's election without traverse of species II in the reply filed on 3 August 2004 is acknowledged.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

2. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

3. The application has been amended as follows: The phrase --, now US Patent 6,698,850 B2-- has been inserted after serial number "10/173,118" in the Cross-reference to Related Application section of page 1 of the Specification.

4. This application is in condition for allowance except for the presence of claims 3-6 drawn to species non-elected without traverse. Accordingly, claims 3-6 have been cancelled.

Allowable Subject Matter

5. Claims 1-2, and 7-12 are allowed.

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6. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The claims, setting forth an elastic crawler apparatus having an endless belt of elastic material, a sprocket arranged to contact an inner face of the endless belt, a driven wheel and a rolling wheel; wherein the endless belt includes a plurality of projections extending in the peripheral direction, and a tension member embedded in an inner portion of the main body of the endless belt; wherein the sprocket includes a contact portion having a contact width greater than the root width of the projections in the belt-width direction of the endless belt, and further includes a plurality of drive tooth portions for engaging the projections and a barrel portion main body integrally formed with the drive tooth portions, each pair of peripherally adjacent projections includes a valley portion therebetween that acts as an engaging groove for the drive tooth portion of the sprocket, and the drive tooth portion includes a driving portion to engage the engaging groove between adjacent lugs and a guide portion to engage the projection in the belt-width direction to restrict lateral shifting of the endless belt with respect to the sprocket; have been found to be allowable over the prior art.

The prior art does not teach or suggest a sprocket having contact portions with a width greater than the root width of projections of an endless belt, wherein the contact portion include a driving portion and a guide portion that prevents lateral movement of the endless belt with respect to the sprocket.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably

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accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. The references are considered to show sprocket wheels having laterally extending contact portion for engaging projections of an endless belt. For example, Irgens shows a sprocket wheel of the type described immediately above.


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jason R Bellinger whose telephone number is 703-308-6298. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon - Thurs (9:00-4:30).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Joseph Morano can be reached on 703-308-0230. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Jason R Bellinger
Examiner
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jrb
RUSSELL D. STORMER
PRIMARY EXAMINER 9/9/04